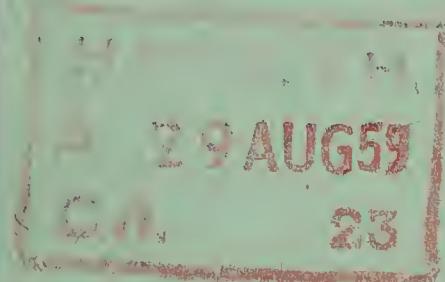


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Barnstaple Rural District



Annual Report

ON

The Health of the Area

VITAL STATISTICS
SANITARY WORKS

Etc.

for the Year 1958



BARNSTAPLE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT
ON
THE HEALTH OF THE AREA

VITAL STATISTICS
SANITARY WORKS
Etc.
For the Year 1958

By
Dr. F. J. H. MARTIN
(M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Oxon.)
Medical Officer of Health

and
ARTHUR J. DENNIS
Chief Public Health Inspector



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*The Health Department,
The Red House,
Castle Street,
Barnstaple,
May, 1959.*

To the Chairman and Members of the
Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mesdames Trebble and Miles, and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you the Report upon the Public
Health of the Barnstaple Rural District for the year 1958.

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK MARTIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Part Time Officer :

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. F. J. H. Martin,
M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Oxon.

Whole Time Officers :

Chief Public Health Inspector, } A. J. Dennis, M.A.P.H.I.,
Building Surveyor and Engineer } C.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

F. A. Lethbridge, M.R.S.H. (1st January to 18th May).
J. W. Bolton, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. (From 12th June).

Articled Pupils: N. J. Dennis
N. Venner.

<i>Clerks</i>	Mrs. J. Kelly. Miss S. Stacey.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief occupations of the district are:—

1. Agriculture
2. Catering for Visitors
3. Market Gardening

The locality may be regarded as purely non-industrial, and employment is on the whole steady.

1958

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health for the Barnstaple Rural District

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	129,346
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	24,370
Inhabited Houses	7,539
Rateable Value	£236,957
Value of a Penny Rate (Estimate)	£968 1s. 2d.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	362
Live Birth rate per 1,000 population	14.85
	(16.92 corrected)
Still-births	11
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births ...	29.49
Total live and still-births	373
Infant deaths	11
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total ...	30.38
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate	32.07
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate	Nil
Neo Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	19.33
(first 4 weeks)	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...	5.24%
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	2
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	5.36
Deaths	276
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.32
	(9.84 corrected)

The table below shows the comparative figures for Barnstaple Rural District Council and England and Wales.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 population		Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple R.D.	16.92	1.1	9.84	21.6	—
England and Wales	16.4	—	11.7	22.5	—

The local Birth and Death Rates are shown above corrected by the area comparability factor.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ...	...	6	5	11
Illegitimate ...	...	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ...	...	5	2	7
Illegitimate ...	...	—	—	—

Local Deaths over 65 years

65 — 69 ... 30	85 — 89 ... 30
70 — 74 ... 37	90 — 94 ... 13
75 — 79 ... 62	95 plus ... 1
80 — 84 ... 48	Total 221

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	... 0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	... 0
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	... 0

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1958

			Males	Females
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	...	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	...	...	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung, Bronchus	...	...	9	2
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	...	...	—	5
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms			9	12
Leukoemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	16	27
Diabetes	...	...	1	3
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	29	13
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	5	4
Other Heart Disease	...	...	24	37
Other diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	1	2
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	10	3
Pneumonia	...	...	3	4
Bronchitis	...	...	2	5
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	2	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	1	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	2	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	—	2
Congenital Malformations	...	...	—	1
Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases	...	...	6	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	4	—
Suicide	...	...	3	2
All Other Accidents	...	...	5	4
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	—	—	1
<hr/>				
All Causes	...	138	138	
Total	...	276		

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Tuberculosis

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough of Barnstaple has 28 beds.

Maternity Cases

At the North Devon Infirmary there is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

At Bicclescombe Hospital, Ilfracombe, there are 10 beds for Maternity and Ante-natal patients.

There are four beds at Braunton Nursing Home.

A General Practitioner Maternity Unit of 13 beds is situated at Highfield, Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases

There is an Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital at Bideford, the Kingsley Hospital, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

Small Pox

The Small Pox Hospital to which any cases of Small Pox will be sent is Upton Pine Hospital, near Exeter. Special Ambulance Transport can be obtained by contacting the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter. Telephone 67158.

General

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the Area, and provides modern Medical and Surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

Two wards at the Alexandra Hospital are set aside as an annexe to the wards of the North Devon Infirmary and post-operative and recovery patients are now transferred there as soon as practicable.

There are 101 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

At Braunton Nursing Home there are four beds for sick persons.

Laboratory Facilities

The Main Laboratory is situated at 7, Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75, Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon Area. The Blood Bank is also situated at this Laboratory.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

V.D. Clinic

This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Sessions:	Females	Males
Monday	4.00 p.m.	5.15 p.m.
Thursday	4.30 p.m.	5.45 p.m.

Chest Clinic

The Chest Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary Glossop Annexe.

Sessions:

Tuesdays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	} Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
Thursdays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	
	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	
Fridays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	

Ambulance Service

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1945, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves Barnstaple Borough and the District around, and the Headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple. The staff consists of three paid members (full-time), 20 men volunteers and 14 volunteer nurses. The Hospital car service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital by the doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

Diphtheria and Acute Poliomyelitis

No cases have occurred in this area during 1958.

Professional Nursing in the Homes

There are nine District Nurses in the area, all of whom act as Midwives.

Home Help Scheme

This scheme, run by Mrs. M. Hughes through the W.V.S., operates for Barnstaple and also for all the rural areas—wherever transport is available.

There are now 64 Home Helps, as compared with 60 in 1957. 455 cases were dealt with in 1958, as compared with 415 in 1957. Of these at least 59 old people are being cared for, who, but for the services of the Home Help, would have to be cared for in hospital. There are now 20 blind people who are being looked after by Home Helps. There were 19 maternity cases during the year 1958 which the Home Helps attended.

Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor, District Nurse, or Hospital Almoner, can have the services of a Home Help.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases

The following Tables give particulars of the Infectious Diseases notified during the year, together with the distribution of cases and the age groups:

<i>Names of Diseases</i>					<i>No. Notified</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	211
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	7
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	10
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	23
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	2
Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	2
					—
					257

During the year seven fresh cases of Tuberculosis were notified in accordance with the regulations.

<i>Age Period</i>	...	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1 to 5 years	...	0	0	0	0
5 to 14 years	...	0	0	0	0
15 to 24 years	...	0	0	1	0
25 to 44 years	...	0	1	0	0
45 to 64 years	...	1	1	0	0
65 and over	...	1	1	1	0
		—	—	—	—
Total	...	2	3	2	0

Tuberculosis—Distribution of Cases

Braunton	...	...	...	...	...	1
Berrynarbor	...	...	...	...	...	1
Combe Martin	...	...	...	...	...	1
West Down	...	...	...	...	...	1
Parracombe	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fremington	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ashford	...	...	...	...	...	1
						—
						7

Infectious Diseases—Age Periods

Distribution of Infectious Diseases Cases Notified during 1958

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Encephalitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	TOTAL

Arlington	...	10	3	—	—	—	—	—	10
Ashford	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Atherington	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Berrynarbor	...	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Bishopstawton	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bittadon	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bratton Fleming	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Braunton	...	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	50
Brendon	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Challacombe	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Combe Martin	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Countisbury	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Down	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fremington	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgeham	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goodleigh	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heanton Punchardon	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
High Bray	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Horwood	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Instow	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kentisbury	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Landkey	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Loxhore	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Martinhoe	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marwood	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mortehoe	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newton Tracey	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parracombe	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pilton West	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shirwell	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stoke Rivers	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swimbridge	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tawstock	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trentishoe	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Down	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westleigh	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	257
	1	211	7	10	23	2	1	2	

I desire to thank Mr. Harwood and the Public Health Officers for their help to me.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ENGINEER, and BUILDING SURVEYOR

*The Red House,
Castle Street,
Barnstaple.*
May, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mesdames. Trebble, Miles and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my 13th Annual Report of work carried out during 1958.

The area of your district is 129,346 acres, with an estimated population of 24,010.

Steady progress has been maintained in the provision of sewerage schemes for the villages in your area. 1958 saw the completion of the Instow project and the commencement of the final contract of the South Bank Scheme.

Sewage is no longer discharged on to the foreshore at Instow and by early 1959, there will be no public sewer outfalls discharging untreated sewage into the River Taw on the South Bank, within your area.

Arrangements are also well ahead for the Atherington and Parracombe Schemes and it is confidently anticipated that work will be proceeding on both schemes in 1959. Plans are also well advanced for other projects at Berry-narbor, Goodleigh, Ashford and the Braunton area.

The popularity of North Devon again increased in 1958. A high proportion of visitors was accommodated at caravan sites and the supervision of these sites was one of

the major duties of my department during the summer months. Generally speaking, the camps were well maintained but every effort is being made to persuade the site operators to provide more sanitary accommodation and better facilities for the disposal of waste water. It is to be regretted that the majority of the sites are occupied principally with caravans used for sub-letting and it is these sites that require most supervision. Many of the tenants are not particularly careful as to the methods they adopt for the disposal of waste water and continued supervision is necessary.

Special attention was also paid during the past summer season to the collection of litter and the provision of litter receptacles. It was a common sight when travelling through the area to find receptacles provided by this department, and we claim that a receptacle is now placed at practically every spot within the rural district where picnickers and trippers are likely to congregate.

The Council can also be satisfied with their refuse collection service. Despite the large and scattered nature of the district a refuse collection service using modern refuse vehicles serves the whole area and even the outlying and isolated hamlets receive a collection not less frequently than once a fortnight and during the summer months the villages on the seaboard catering for visitors enjoy a bi-weekly collection. Furthermore during the summer season, litter not deposited in the bins provided was collected at least weekly on all highways and places which proved to be popular stopping points.

During the past year, additional public conveniences have been provided at Georgeham and one convenience at Woolacombe has been doubled in size. It is proposed to proceed with the erection of a similar building at Combe Martin. I would like to see more conveniences erected,

particularly at Putsborough and Woolacombe. At Putsborough, the difficulty is the lack of essential services and at Woolacombe, the objections of householders in the vicinity of any site suggested. Had there been no objection to the site at Combesgate, Woolacombe, I am confident that public conveniences would have been provided in that locality in time for the coming summer season.

During the month of August approximately 1,200 caravans were stationed in your area with a population of 4,300, and 670 tents accounted for a further 1,300 visitors.

In addition there were several organised camps such as Boy Scouts, Church Lads' Brigade, etc.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

The total number of Inspections, Re-visits and Interviews during the year was 4,554, made up as follows:—

Visits re Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	8
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	37
Drains inspected and tested	...	...	...	...	411
Sewers	...	...	...	...	507
Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	130
Housing Repairs	...	...	...	...	47
National Assistance Act	...	...	...	...	—
Housing Act Visits	...	...	...	...	111
Coast Protection	...	...	...	...	15
Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	562
Town and Country Planning Act	...	...	...	...	509
Inspection of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	387
Inspection of Food Premises	...	...	...	...	228
Meat and Foods Inspection	...	...	...	...	393
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	28
Milk Retailers	...	...	...	...	20
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	74
Inspections under Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	24
Public Health Act Inspections, Nuisances, etc.	...	...	...	...	212
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	5
Factories, Workshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	11
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	107
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	235
Visits to Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	61
Schools	...	...	...	...	13
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	66
Shops Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	157
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	12
Rent Act Visits	...	...	...	...	8
Land Charges—Search	...	...	...	...	7
Infestations	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	55
Committee Meetings	...	...	...	...	110

SUMMARY OF MEAT INSPECTIONS

Animals	Inspected	Condemned Carcases	Condemned Portions	
			T.B.	Other Causes
Sheep ...	889	100		6 Lungs 105 Livers 7 Hearts
Pigs ...	2,640	8	78 Heads 1 Lung 1 Heart	1 Head 15 Lungs 49 Livers 19 Hearts 4 Kidneys
Beasts (not Cows)	469	1	1 Head 3 Lungs 2 Livers	1 Head 15 Livers
Cows ...	66	6		1 Head 1 Lung 9 Livers 1 Spleen
Calves ...	231	12		1 Head 3 Lungs 1 Liver 2 Hearts 2 Kidneys

Disposal of Carcasses deposited on Foreshore

Animal carcasses are still being deposited around the foreshore from time to time. Arrangements have to be made for disposal, usually by burial in lime on the foreshore.

Total Notices (Served as under)

Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	1
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	6

Swimming Pools

The only Swimming Pool in the district is situated on the seashore and is privately owned. The pool is covered by every tide.

Offensive Trades

Byelaws are in operation for the control of Offensive Trades. There is one in the district—the Tannery at Swimbridge.

Underground Sleeping Rooms

There is no need for regulations in this area in respect of underground sleeping rooms.

Slum Clearance

During the year, the Public Health Committee considered reports on 14 properties in the district with a view to demolition action being taken under the Housing Acts. Of these, the Committee accepted undertakings from the owners of 13 properties to carry out works to make the houses fit. The remaining house was the subject of a Closing Order.

One property was made fit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957. Of the houses which are the subjects of previous action under the Housing Acts, and which are not yet determined, three houses were demolished during 1958 and one house was made fit.

Rodent Control

No special problem arose, the work being continued as a matter of routine. The total number of visits was 523 and the work done is summarised in the following table:—

Farm premises ...	...	...	...	...	215
Private and Business ...	...	...	...	...	92
Local Authority Properties ...	...	...	...	...	114
Refuse Tips and Sewage Disposal Plants ...					102
					<hr/>
Total					523

It was found that occupiers of properties generally were willing to accept the advice of the rodent operator and it was not found necessary to serve any formal notices.

The systems of sewers were treated twice during the year and it was found that the problem was fairly well under control.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Food Hygiene Regulations. 256 inspections of food premises were made during the year. Some premises were found to be below the standard set out in the regulations but, with the co-operation of the persons concerned, the necessary improvements were made without have to resort to formal action.

As in the past, special attention was paid to premises catering for the summer visitors.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

While visiting food shops, attention was given to the items of food for sale and certain items of tinned food have been condemned, due to damage or rust and leakage.

Water

Ten water samples were taken, eight of which proved satisfactory. In one case, an undertaking was given that the cottage, which subsequently became vacant, would not be used again for human habitation until the water supply was satisfactory.

Factories Act, 1937 (Sections 110 and 111)

OUTWORKERS

Nature of Work	Section 110		Section 111			Prosecutions
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failing to supply lists	No. of Instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc)	25	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	25	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937—PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions at to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	3	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	45	5	NIL
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	3	NIL
Total	73	11	NIL

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	Total (6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)			
Overcrowding (S.2)			
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)			
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)			
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient			
(b) Unsuitable or defective			
(c) Not separate for sexes			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	1	1	1
Total	1	1	NIL
					NIL

BUILDING SURVEYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

*The Red House,
Castle Street,
Barnstaple.
May, 1959.*

To the Chairman and Members of
the Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mesdames. Trebble and Miles, and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the following Report on the activities
of the Building Surveyor's Department during the year
1958.

PLANS

Details of Plans Submitted

No. approved under Byelaws	...	...	64
No. disapproved under Byelaws	...	...	14
No. approved under Town Planning	...	...	324
No. disapproved under Town Planning	...	...	46
No. decision given under Town Planning	...	...	3
No. withdrawn after formal submission	...	...	4
No. of houses completed during the year:—			
(1) By Private Enterprise	...	...	123
(2) By Local Authority	...	...	7

I wish to record my thanks to each member of the
Council, to Mr. Harwood and Dr. Martin, and to all mem-
bers of the department for their support and consideration
during the past year.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my
appreciation of the assistance given to me by Mr. Leth-
bridge, who was my deputy for ten years and who during
that time gave me unfailing support. He has now left the
employ of the Council and moved to Plymouth, where we
wish him luck in his future career. I also welcome Mr.
Bolton, who has come with us from Meriden Rural District
Council and I hope he will be happy in his new appoint-
ment.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. DENNIS.

